

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andrew Blinken  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

November 14, 2022

Secretary Blinken,

At a press conference at the end of October, you were quoted as saying “We continue to believe that a diplomatic resolution to the challenge posed by Iran’s nuclear program remains the best way forward...But in this moment there is no prospect for an agreement.”<sup>1</sup> This echoes various other statements made by yourself and other State Department officials over the last few weeks and signals that while a revival of the JCPOA may be off the table for now, it is not something this administration is going to give up on entirely. This is unacceptable. We cannot return to negotiations with a regime that has made it perfectly clear they will do anything, including murder their own citizens in cold blood, to stay in power.

The recent discovery of Iranian drones being used to attack Ukrainian civilians and deadly crackdowns within Iran on peaceful protestors make it very clear that we can no longer continue negotiations on the Nuclear Deal. As of October 25th, over 234 people have been killed while protesting the death of Mahsa Amini at the hands of the Iranian morality police.<sup>2</sup> Meanwhile, Iran has been exporting their deadly capabilities by sending drones and drone trainers to Ukraine for Russian use. These drones have been used to strike civilian and electrical grid targets, most recently being used to bomb a residential building in Kyiv.<sup>3</sup> To condemn the regime with one voice and negotiate with another project weakness and lack of moral fiber. The oppressed people of Iran and Ukraine deserve better.

Since negotiations began on the original JCPOA in 2013, Iran has come to the table in bad faith. Israeli intelligence discovered unreported uranium enrichment sites that were further verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).<sup>4</sup> By the time President Trump pulled out of the Iran Nuclear Deal, Iran had exceeded agreed upon limits on heavy water, centrifuges, and research on

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-and-french-foreign-minister-catherine-colonna-at-a-joint-press-availability/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://iranhr.net/en/articles/5535/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/18/us/politics/iran-drones-russia-ukraine.html?utm\\_campaign=dfn-ebb&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=sailthru&SToverlay=2002c2d9-c344-4bbb-8610-e5794efcfa7d](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/18/us/politics/iran-drones-russia-ukraine.html?utm_campaign=dfn-ebb&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sailthru&SToverlay=2002c2d9-c344-4bbb-8610-e5794efcfa7d)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-50382219>

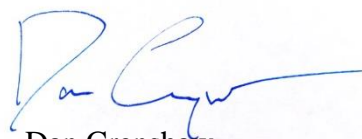
ballistic missiles.<sup>5</sup> The fact that this administration is unwilling or unable to accept that Iran has never had intentions of compliance with any nuclear agreement is sad and dangerous.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was dead on arrival and to continue to negotiate with a regime that has come to the table in bad faith is a farce and a waste of time. Time that Iran has used to continue enriching uranium and advancing their weapons efforts, even openly discussing the possibility of creating atomic weaponry.<sup>6</sup> The time for negotiations has passed, we must close the door on the Iran Nuclear Deal.

Sincerely,



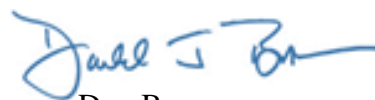
Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw  
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Debbie Lesko  
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Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



María Elvira Salazar  
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<sup>5</sup> <https://carnegieendowment.org/2017/10/12/trump-administration-and-iran-nuclear-deal-analysis-of-noncompliance-claims-pub-73214>

<sup>6</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-iran-dubai-nuclear-d96093efcf1e6b8581138b9db48cbcd>